

Recycle. It's Not Garbage Anymore!

See if you know what **CAN** and **CAN'T** be recycled.

Recycling YES



Recycling NO



Recyclables should be empty, clean and unbagged;
no food or soiled materials. Put glass in Glass Only separate container.
www.seattle.gov/util/services/recycling (206) 684-3000 TTY/233-7241



Tear Here

Waste Free Holidays

Give an experience instead of stuff, and reduce your garbage this holiday season through Waste Free Holidays.

Beginning November 15, more than 100 local businesses and organizations will offer discounts of 15 percent or more on tickets, gift certificates or memberships for concerts, plays, sporting events, spa treatments, museums, restaurants and much, much more!

Find details at www.wastefreeholidays.com

Tips to Trim Your Holiday Wasteline

- ◆ Ask your local mail business if they'll take foam peanuts and other packaging, or reuse it yourself.
- ◆ Choose rechargeable batteries.
- ◆ Recycle - don't burn - wrapping paper. Those blue and green flames are toxic!
- ◆ Send holiday e-cards instead of mailing paper cards.
- ◆ Make a charitable donation in your friends' name, instead of buying them more stuff!

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For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.
如需要口譯服務，請撥電話號碼206-684-3000。
통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.
Wixii tunjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000.
Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.
Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.
Vê dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.

Seattle Public Utilities

CURBWASTE & Conserve

Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Winter 2007

Keep the Chill Out!

Each winter, an average of a 250,000 homes is damaged in the U.S due to water pipes that freeze and burst. By taking a few simple precautions, you can help save yourself from the mess, money and headaches of burst frozen pipes.



Before the Cold Hits:

Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces, basement and attic. Exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. The more insulation you use, the better the protection.

Heat tape can be used to wrap pipes. Closely follow the manufacturer's installation and operation instructions.

Seal leaks and close foundation vents to minimize cold air entering your house and freezing pipes. Open vents again in the spring to prevent dry rot.

Drain and disconnect garden hoses and insulate hose bibs.

Be Prepared

- Organize an evacuation plan and establish an emergency meeting place should your family get separated.
- Know where utility shut-offs are located.
- Learn which weather conditions can prompt disasters, and when these conditions occur, listen to radio or TV broadcasts for emergency information. Evacuate immediately if told to do so.
- Make a family emergency kit. Visit www.seattle.gov/emergency to learn how.

Snow/Ice Garbage Collections

During snowy or icy weather, check your local news or www.seattle.gov/util, or call (206) 684-3000 to see if there are any delays in your collection. Better yet, sign up for CurbWaste E-News and be the first to receive updates and conservation tips. Sign up at www.seattle.gov/lists



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Public Utilities

Chuck Clarke, Director

PO Box 34018

Seattle, WA

98124-4018

www.seattle.gov/util

(206) 684-3000

(206) 233-7241 TTY

Help Prevent Flooding

Falling leaves and increased rains can block storm drains and lead to flooding. Prevent flooding with these tips:

- Remove leaves and debris from storm drains and place in your yard waste container.
- Don't blow or rake leaves into the street.
- To report clogged storm drains, call (206) 386-1800.
- Call (206) 684-7647 to Adopt-A-Drain or request a leaf pickup.



Don't Be a Turkey! Keep Your Sewer Fat-Free

Homeowners and building owners are responsible for repairing and maintaining their side sewer connections to the city's sewer system. Sewer clogs often peak during the holiday season when turkey and trimmings are prepared and enjoyed.

Thanksgiving chefs have extra incentives to dispose of grease in a proper manner because if it goes down the drain, it can eventually harden and lead to clogging of private and public sewer lines. This can result in:

- ◆ Sewer backups
- ◆ Costly clean up bills
- ◆ Exposure to health risks
- ◆ A major dent in your holiday spirit!

Sewer Clogs Can be Costly

When a sewer backup is caused by a side sewer failure, you may be faced with digging up your yard, removing the adjoining sidewalk, and/or opening up the street, potentially costing tens of thousands of dollars. Repairs are NOT typically covered by home owners' insurance policies.

Damage can be caused by tree roots that penetrate pipes or blockages in a section of a joint or shared side sewer line, so it makes sense to take care of your side sewer. Storm-related events can also result in backups in some areas with a combined sewer/drainage system.

An Ounce of Prevention...

You can prevent grease from clogging your side sewer by pouring used dairy products, fats, oil, grease or greasy foods into a lidded container and placing it in the trash - NOT down the sink.

Whether you're a new homeowner or have owned your home for many years, it's a good idea to have your side sewer inspected by a professional.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

If you notice slow drainage after you've cleaned out your sink trap, or you suspect a blockage, 90 percent of the time the problem is in your private side sewer line and you should immediately contact a private plumbing company to investigate. It's a good idea to get at least three written bids before hiring a company.

If sewage is coming up inside your home when you are not using water, call (206) 386-1800. A crew will check the city's sewer and notify you of the results of their investigation as soon as possible.

The Power of Recycling

- Washington's recycling efforts in 2005 reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 3.2 million tons. This is similar to removing 2.5 million passenger cars from roads that year - over half the passenger cars in Washington! *Source: Department of Ecology*
- Oil is a primary ingredient in plastic. In 2004, 4.6 billionpounds of plastic soda and water bottles were produced and purchased from store shelves, but only 21 percent of them were recycled. *Source: 2006 NAPCOR PET Recycling Report*
- Each ton of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy, and 7,000 gallons of water. This represents a 64 percent energy saving, a 58 percent water saving, and 60 pounds less of air pollution! The 17 trees saved can also absorb a total of 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each year. *Sources: US EPA, Center for Ecological Technology and Earth911*

To find out more about what you can do to lower your carbon footprint, visit www.SeattleCAN.org.

Recycle Your Holiday Greens



Seattle residents may recycle trees and greens free of charge at the city's North and South Recycling and Disposal stations between Dec. 26, 2007 and Jan. 13, 2008. Trees should not exceed eight feet in length and must be free of decoration so they can be turned into compost for local parks and gardens. Trunks should not exceed four inches in diameter. The stations will accept up to three trees per vehicle for free. Find station hours at www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Garbage or by calling (206) 684-3000.

Yard waste subscribers can put trees and greens out on their regular yard waste collection day. Cut trees into sections, six feet long or shorter, with branches trimmed to less than four feet to fit into the collection trucks. Bundle each section with sisal string or twine (not plastic). Decorated, flocked or plastic trees are not recyclable.

Leftover Fruitcake Isn't Garbage Anymore!

When you just can't eat another bite, give that leftover fruitcake, pumpkin pie, salad, pasta, rice and stuffing another life this holiday season - put it in your yard and food waste cart. Why waste a good thing? When you put leftover fruit, vegetables, bread, and napkins and pizza boxes in your city-provided cart, they'll be made into Cedar Grove compost to nourish local gardens and parks. To sign up for yard and food waste collection, call (206) 684-3000.

Holiday Closures

Seattle's Recycling and Disposal stations will be closed and there will be no garbage, yard waste or recycling collection on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 22), Christmas Day (Dec. 25), and New Year's Day (Jan. 1). Pickups that normally occur on those days will be made the following day.



Dear Evelyn: How is Seattle doing at recycling?

Seattle is a national leader in recycling! Seattle residents recycle more than 50 percent of the waste they generate. Seattle's goal is to recycle 60 percent of all our waste by 2012. Why is recycling important?

1. It uses less energy and green house gases – recycled paper production is more efficient. When your recycle 100 pounds of paper, you reduce your climate footprint by 300 pounds!
2. It saves money – the city currently saves \$3.3 million per year by recycling paper.
3. You can lower your bill by recycling more and reducing your garbage can size.
4. It reduces pollution – recycled paper production produce less toxics than virgin paper production.
5. It's the law – recyclable paper, cardboard, bottles, cans, tubs and jars are prohibited from the garbage, and garbage cans will not be picked up if too many recyclables are found in them. Businesses and apartments could be fined for repeatedly dumping recyclables in the garbage. So don't get left behind – Recycle!

Dear Evelyn: One of my apartment tenants doesn't recycle. What can I do?

Recyclables are prohibited in the garbage, and apartments face \$50 fines for having too many recyclables in their garbage. Why not tear off the recycling flyer in this newsletter for your tenant? For those who are new to Seattle and don't know what to recycle, the city offers FREE recycling education posters in seven languages, tenant letters, presentations and videos. Learn more by searching for "Tenant Education" at www.seattle.gov/util, or call (206) 684-3000.

Dear Evelyn: If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?

Um, you've really stumped me with that one! But all puns aside, perhaps the question should be "why does the tree need to fall at all?" More than 20 percent of Seattle's garbage is made up of paper which can be recycled – cereal boxes, frozen food boxes, milk cartons, juice boxes, newspapers, magazines, paper bags, tissue boxes, phone books, envelopes (with or without plastic windows) and cardboard are among the thousands of paper items that we can recycle in Seattle.

So whether you've finished a case of soda, a magazine, a milk carton or a box of cereal or cookies, make sure you recycle the paper and cardboard, and save a tree!

Please send your recycling questions, tips or suggestions to Ask Evelyn, Seattle Public Utilities, PO Box 34018, Seattle, WA 98124-4018 or e-mail Evelyn the Envelope at askevelyn@seattle.gov

This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance. Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TDD telephone number is (206) 233-7241. Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.